

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1, 2 and 18-21 are pending in the application. Claims 3-17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 18-21 have been added and are now presented for consideration. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

II. Response to Objections

The Examiner objected to the Title. Applicant has amended the title as shown above and respectfully requests that the objection now be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claim 12 for minor informalities.

Claim 12 has been cancelled, rendering the objection to claim 12 moot.

III. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,968,058 to Kondoh, et al. (hereafter, "Kondoh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,970,561 to Obana (hereafter, "Obana").

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments now presented herein. For example, independent claim 1 has been amended for further clarification to recite, *inter alia*:

"An image sensing apparatus comprising:

an image sensing unit that generates image data of a sensed image;

and

a key data control unit that generates key data if a user turns on the power of the image sensing apparatus, the key data being used to generate authentication data, the authentication data being used to authenticate whether the image data is altered,

wherein the key data control unit erases the key data in accordance with a predetermined condition."

Applicant submits that Kondoh and Obana, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least "a key data control unit that generates key data if a user turns on

the power of the image sensing apparatus, the key data being used to generate authentication data, the authentication data being used to authenticate whether the image data is altered”, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

The Office Action concedes that “Kondoh does not specifically state that the key data necessary to generate the authentication data is erased in accordance with a predetermined condition such as when a user turns off a power supply.” However, the Office Action asserts that Obana states “that it is well known in the art for communication devices to dynamically erase key information stored in a volatile memory when power is turned off and to re-load the key information when the supply of power is resumed (col. 1, line 65-col. 2, line 4).”

However, Applicant notes that the cited portion of Obana merely discloses re-loading key information. In contrast, the present invention as featured in claim 1 as amended generates the key data used to generate the authentication data.

Furthermore, Kondoh fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed with respect to Obana above.

In view of the above, independent claim 1 is believed distinguishable over the cited references (i.e., Kondoh and Obana) for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Likewise, Applicant has chosen not to swear behind the cited references or to otherwise submit evidence to traverse the rejection at this time. Applicant, however, reserves the right, as provided by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.131 and 1.132, to do so in the future as appropriate.

Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend either directly or indirectly, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

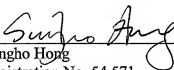
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5155. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Applicants believe that no petition for extension of time is required because the shortened statutory due date falls on a Saturday (i.e., November 10, 2007). In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5155. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: November 12, 2007

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CONCLUSION

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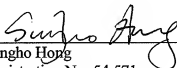
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